

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday April 20th 2008

80 Metres Counties Contest Results 2008

EI9HX won the SSB Only fixed section and the outside EI station in first place in this category was G3ZVW.

First place in the SSB Only Portable section was EI2MRG/P.

The SSB/CW Fixed section saw EI4CF take first place and the highest scoring station outside of EI in this category was GI0RTN.

Winner of the SWL section was OK1-11861.

Thanks again to all the participants and congratulations to the winners. A few notable points were that EI9HX and EI8CE both worked 31 counties with only Kildare not being logged, also EI4GYB who had the highest EI QSO count with 161 QSO's. GI0RTN had the highest score 13440, and the highest QSO count of 175.

Hopefully these can be topped in next years contest! All the results can be found on the IRTS website thanks to Joe EI7GY.

2 Metre Counties Contest

As yet only a few logs have been received so please forward logs via e-mail or direct to EI8IU at QTHR.

Cork Radio Club

As the Cork Radio Club prepares for the 17th annual Radio rally at their new venue, a preview of the hotel can be seen on the "You Tube" site. To view just enter the You Tube site and enter EI5CRC. It is hoped that further videos will be available on the site in the future depicting the activities of the club.

For those thinking of trading at the rally it is advisable to make contact with the club as soon as possible in order to facilitate the organisers in allocating space. The date for the rally is the 14th of September and the venue is The Montenotti Hotel, Cork. Further details will be posted on the You Tube site in the coming weeks.

The Cork Radio Club meets every Monday night at 8:30 p.m. at 1a Assumption Rd. Cork. All are welcome.

Kerry Amateur Radio Group

The next meeting of the Kerry Amateur Radio Group will be held on Saturday the 26th of April 2008 at 10 a.m. in the Muckross House Coffee Shop, Killarney, Co. Kerry. On the meeting agenda is the proposed change of meeting date from the first Saturday to the last Saturday of the month. Initial response from members has been positive. Discussion and a final vote on the proposed change will take place at the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Friedrichshafen Rally

Following the success of the IRTS presence at last year's event, the Society again plans to host a stand at this year's Rally scheduled from June 27th to 29th. The objectives associated with the IRTS presence at this prestigious event may be summarised as follows: (1) To raise the image of IRTS among the other European societies. (2) To promote Ireland and things Irish among the large attendance and (3) To provide a base and resting place for IRTS members attending the Rally.

In order to draw up a roster of Irish hams visiting the Rally who might be willing to help in manning the Stand, those planning to travel are invited to send their names and contact details to Sean Donelan EI4GK. Sean's email address is "donelansean at gmail dot com". The commitment required from any individual is unlikely to be great but any assistance offered will be much appreciated.

AREN News

IARU Region 1 invites the HQ-Stations of all IARU member societies and stations of emergency Communications Groups to participate in a Global Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday May 3rd, 2008 at 18.00 to 22.00 UTC. The operation will take place on and near the emergency Centre-of-Activity (CoA) frequencies on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 metres (plus or minus depending on QRM).

The objectives of the test are; (1) To increase the common interest in emergency communications. (2) Test how usable the CoA frequencies are across ITU regions. (3) Create practices for international emergency communication and (4) practice the relaying of messages by voice and data modes.

Please keep in mind that this is not a contest, it is an emergency communications exercise!

Traffic may be passed on voice (SSB) or Data modes. Region 1 centre of activity frequencies are, 3760 kHz, 7060 kHz, 14300 kHz, 18160 kHz and 21360 kHz. AREN hopes to have a number of stations on the air to repeat the strong presence in the last event.

Non-participating stations are kindly asked to avoid the centre of activity frequencies during the exercise. More information may be obtained by contacting any AREN member.

Theory Examination

The three year agreement between ComReg and IRTS under which the Society is responsible for setting, organising and correcting the examination for the Experimenter Licence is due to expire in May. Arising from this, representatives of the Society held a very successful meeting on Wednesday last with representatives of ComReg. At this meeting it was decided that the agreement would be renewed for a further three-year period. A new agreement with minor amendments is being drawn up at present and should be signed shortly.

It was also agreed that for the future an examination would be held in June or July with a repeat examination in September or October. The next examination will be held in early July. The success of the collaboration between ComReg and IRTS on the examination is evidenced by the fact that since IRTS took over responsibility for the examination just under three years ago, six examinations have been held. A total of 126 candidates have sat these examinations and 75 of them have obtained the HAREC qualification, which entitled them to apply for an experimenter licence. This is probably the highest number ever to pass the examination in a three-year period.

70 MHz

Recently IRTS applied to ComReg to try to secure the 500 kHz segment between 70.0 and 70.5 MHz for use by experimenters. Unfortunately frequencies both below and above the existing secondary allocation of 70.125 to 70.450 MHz are still in use in thirteen counties by business radio licensees.

IRTS AGM 2008 Galway

The IRTS Annual General Meeting will be hosted this year on the 26th and 27th of April 2008 by the Galway Radio Experimenters Club. The venue is the Salthill Hotel on the prom in Salthill, Galway. See their website for details at www.salthillhotel.com You can also call the hotel on 091 522711 to book accommodation. Rates are 75 Euro per person sharing double room and a single room is 85 Euro to include breakfast. Please mention the Galway Radio Club when booking.

If you prefer B&B, there are ample B&B's in the Salthill area. The IRTS dinner will be held on Saturday evening the 26th of April in the hotel at 8 p.m. with music in the bar afterwards. On Sunday the 27th there will be a rally in the hotel from 11 a.m. with many of the traders that were at the Knock rally attending. Lunch will be available in the hotel and the AGM meeting will be held afterwards in the meeting room upstairs. Salthill is an ideal venue for a family weekend, walk the famous promenade and avail of the many attractions Salthill has to offer, the Sea Aquarium, cafes, restaurants and bars.

The Leisureland swimming complex is beside the hotel and Galway's shopping centres are not too far away. For any help and rally details, contact the club's officers: Damian Commins EI2HG on 086 8316382 or Tom Frawley EI3ER on 086 8224170.

International Marconi Day 2008

The 21st International Marconi Day event takes place on the 26th of April next. Among the stations taking part will be EI0MAR, from the Vintage Radio Museum, located in the Martello tower in Howth. An experimental Marconi wireless telegraphy station was set up at the same location in 1905. The HMS Monarch, with wireless telegraphy equipment aboard, transmitted from various locations in the Irish Sea each time relaying its distance from the receiving station in Howth where signal strengths were logged.

Though not a contest, EI0MAR, as an award station will be eagerly sought for QSO's during the event. Visitors are invited to come along and operate on the day. The EI0MAR website is ei5em.110mb.com/ei0mar.html. If you follow links from that page to the museum page, you can download a free booklet that chronicles the history of the Martello tower and gives greater details of the 1905 Marconi tests. The International Marconi Day event is organised by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club. Further details and a list of participating award stations is available at the club's web site www.g4imd.org.uk

Visitors to Howth Vintage Radio Museum

If any other clubs would like to organise a visit to the museum they would be most welcome. Interested club secretaries can, in the first instance, email “ei0mar at eircom dot net”.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The next general meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group will take place at 8.00 p.m. on Monday the 28th of April in the Roanmore Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford. All are welcome.

GB3GEO Special Event

GB3GEO will be on the air from The Prehistoric Caves, of “Kent’s Cavern”, England’s oldest home in Britain. GB3GEO will be situated in The English Riviera (Torbay) that is recognised as having Geo Park status. There are six in the UK, and fifty-three in the world. It is hoped that GB3GEO will help to promote geological heritage to the general public.

There will be a special open day at the caves on Sunday the 25th and GB3GEO will be on the air during the weekend of 24th and 25th of May, operation is on 80 metres to 2 metres and the station will be run by Martin G3VOF, with help from John G7HIK, Paddy M1EIW, and Roger 2E0GHR.

There will be a special QSL card sent for all QSO’s made with GB3GEO via the bureau.

Items for inclusion in next weeks Radio News should be forwarded to Mark Wall, EI7IS at QTHR or by phone to 087-6302026 or 051-340850. Items for the radio news can also be faxed to 087 5 6302026. News should be submitted via e-mail to “news at irts dot ie” for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Friday in order to be guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday’s bulletin.

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